IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Drenttel et al

Serial No.:   09/366858

Filed: August 4, 1999

Title: Method and System for Computer Screen Layout

Group: 2178

Examiner: Huynh, Thu V

To: Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Attention: Board of Patent Appeals and Interference

Appellants' Brief (37 C.F. R. 41.37)

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal filed in this case on

No fee is required in view of a prior appeal of record herein.

The Brief is transmitted in triplicate.

The Real Party In Interest (37 C.F.R. 41.37 (c) (1)(i))

The real party in interest is the named applicant, William Drenttel and Jessica Helfand.

Related Appeals and Interference (37 C.F.R. 41.37 (c) (1)(ii))

There are no related appeals and interferences.

An appeal brief filed on 8/6/03 resulted in "The finality of the office action mailed on 1/24/03 (being) withdrawn in view of new grounds of rejection" (page 2 office action dated 12/3/03). This may be considered a related appeal.

Status of Claims (37 C.F.R. 41.37 (c) (1)(iii))

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-16, 18, 20, and 22 were pending in the case and all of these claims were finally rejected by the Examiner in the office action dated August 8, 2005. Claim 1 was objected to by the Examiner in the same office action due to informality, i.e., a missing comma.

No claims have been allowed.

Rejections to claims 1, 3-6, 8-16, 18, 20, and 22 and the objection to claim 1 are being appealed.

Status of Amendments (37 C.F.R. 41.37 (c) (1)(iv))

No amendments were filed subsequent to the final rejection.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter (37 C.F.R. 41.37 (c) (1)(v))

There are four independent claims, which are claims 1, 6, 11, and 15.

Subject matter defined in claim 1: a template data structure for computerized generation of a display of information on computer display devices. Only grids of the desired 2x1 unit length-to-width ratio of dimensions are used to form all display components filling the entire display area of the template data structure. (page 11, lines 12-18 of the Specification). The proportioning of the grids is automatically maintained during operation on at least one of the grids. The operation is selected from the group consisting of repositioning, resizing, reshaping, reorienting, and subdividing. (Page 17, line 14 to page 18, line 14 of the Specification and Figs. 9a and 9b. Page 18, line 15 to

page 19, line 16 of the Specification and Fig. 10. Page 21, lines 1-7 of the Specification, Fig. 11).

Subject matter defined in claim 6: a system using the template data structure claimed in claim 1, for computerized generation of a display of information on a computer display device. (references made for subject matter defined in claim 1, and page 1, lines 2-3, page 5, line 19 to page 6, line 1).

Subject matter defined in claim 11: a method of arranging information, including text and graphic images, in a computerized display employing a template data structure claimed in claim 1. (references made for subject matter defined in claim 6).

Subject matter defined in claim 15: a method for employing a template data structure for generating a computerized screen display of a given display area for displaying text and other information on a computer display device. The text information has at least two formats, i.e., horizontal and vertical orientation. The method comprises creating a first screen display using the template data structure claimed in claim 1, creating a second screen display using the template data structure claimed in claim 1, selecting a first format for the text information from the template data structures, and displaying screen display having textual information entered in the selected template data structure. (references made for subject matter defined in claim 6. In particular, page 18, line 15 to page 19, line 17, and Fig. 10).

<u>Grounds of Rejection to Be Reviewed on Appeal (37 C.F.R. 41.37 (c) (1)(vi))</u>

A.   The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Frontpage 98, copyright 1997 by Sams.net Publishing, pages 359-381, in view of England, U.S. 6,144,991 filed 02/1998.

B. The Examiner rejected Claims 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Microsoft Frontpage 98" copyright 1997 by Sams.net Publishing, pages 359-381, in view of England, U.S. 6,144,991 filed 02/1998 and Courter et al., "Mastering Microsoft Office 2000 Professional Edition", ISBN: 0782123139, Pub. Date: February 1999, Pages 105-145; 937-981; and 1031-1056.

C. The Examiner rejected Claims 18, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Frontpage 98 in view of England as applied to claims 1, 6 and 11, and further in view of Hargove, U.S. 5,371,847, patented 1994.

D. The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11-13, 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter et al., "Mastering Microsoft Office 2000 Professional Edition", ISBN: 0782123139, Pub. Date: February 1999, Pages 105-145; 937-981; and 1031-1056.

E. The Examiner rejected claims 18, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter as applied to claims 1, 6 and 11, and further in view of Hargove, U.S. 5,371,847, patented 1994.

<u>Arguments (37 C.F.R. 41.37 (c) (1)(vii))</u>

The appellant addresses each of the five rejections asserted by the Examiner in the order they were presented in the final office action. As to be expounded in the following sections, each of the five rejections was made based on an erroneous reading of the prior art and should be withdrawn.

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A. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Frontpage 98, copyright 1997 by Sams.net Publishing, pages 359-381, in view of England, U.S. 6,144,991 filed 02/1998.

The Examiner erred in making this rejection due to an incorrect reading of the cited prior art.

The Examiner claimed in the office action (page 3, lines 16 – 20) that Frontpage teaches "the proportioning of said grids is automatically maintained during operation on at least one of the grids of the template data structure to generate a resulting display on computer display devices, said operation on said at least one of the grids being at least one action selected from the group consisting of repositioning, resizing, reshaping, reorienting, and subdividing." The Examiner relied on the following passages in Frontpage to support the purported teaching, "FrontPage, page 365 lines 3-22; page 365, lines 23-page 369, lines 16, user defines desired <u>length-to-width ratio</u> of frames in a frameset and this ratio is automatically maintained during splitting (subdividing) one of the frame in the frameset to occupy some percentage of the entire frame." (underline ours) (page 3, line 20 to page 4, line 2 of the office action).

Attention is called to the phrase "length-to-width ratio" referred to by the Examiner in her reading of FrontPage, defined as the ratio of the length to the width of a grid/frameset. The automatic maintenance of the length-to-width ratio of all the grids/framesets in a display area is the gist of the present invention. The reference to length-to-width ratio is asserted mistakenly by the Examiner to be present in the FrontPage teaching. A careful reading of the cited prior art would reveal that the exact phrase, "length-to-width ratio" or a word/phrase suggesting the same or similar is entirely

absent. Also absent from the cited section of FrontPage is any teaching or suggestion that the length-to-width ratio, or a similar concept, of a grid/frameset can be defined or maintained when the grid/frameset is subjected to one or more of the aforementioned operations (repositioning, resizing, reshaping, reorienting, and subdividing).

The Examiner's error in reading FrontPage in connection with this issue is more evident in Page 20, lines 1 – 14 of the office action, where the Examiner explained her reading of FrontPage in more detail. The Examiner recites that "FrontPage teaches 'Split Frame command in the Frame menu to split a frame into two rows or two columns" and "[u]se the Percent setting when you want the width or height of your frame to **always be a percentage** of full browser width or height" (bold type is the Examiner's). The Examiner's quote does not support her conclusion, that FrontPage teaches the maintenance of the length-to-width ratio of the grids/frames, for the following reasons.

First, when a frame, called a parent frame for the purpose of discussion, is split into two rows or two columns and thus generating two daughter sub-frames, the parent frame would of course be able to maintain its length-to-width ratio because neither its length nor its width has been changed. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in FrontPage that the length-to-width ratio of either of the daughter sub-frames will be the value of the parent frame. As a matter of fact, such daughter sub-frame cannot possess the same length-to-width ratio of the parent frame because the width (horizontal dimension) of the sub-frame is a fraction of that of the parent frame while the lengths (vertical dimensions) are the same in the event of a split into two columns, and the length (vertical dimension) of the sub-frame is a fraction of that of the parent frame while the widths (horizontal dimensions) are the same in the event of a split into two rows.

Therefore, FrontPage does not teach or allow the maintenance of a uniform length-to-width ratio for **all** the frames in the display. This can be clearly demonstrated by an actual experiment conducted using the FrontPage software (attachment A). In contrast, the present invention teaches "only grids of the desired 2x1 unit length-to-width ratio of dimensions are used to form **all** display components filling the entire display area of said template data structure" (all of the independent claims, i.e., claims 1, 6, 11 and 15) (bold type is ours).

Second, operations other than splitting, such as repositioning, resizing, reshaping, and reorienting, do not guarantee the maintenance of length-to-width ratio of the frames in FrontPage. The fact that FrontPage, as quoted by the Examiner, allows a user to use "Percent setting" to set the "width or height" of the frame to be always a certain percentage of full browser "width or height" has no relevance to the maintenance of length-to-width (alternatively called height-to-width) ratio of the frames. For example, the length-to-width ratio of the frames in the browser window will inevitably follow the change in the length-to-width ratio of the full browser. This can be clearly demonstrated by an actual experiment conducted using the FrontPage software (attachment B).

As stated by the applicant, the FrontPage as cited by the Examiner does not teach the automatic maintenance of length-to-width ratio of all of the frames as claimed by the present application. England is relied upon by the Examiner to solely teach "the step of providing predefined different frame layouts and framesets includes grid dimension" (page 4, lines 8-9 of the office action). The combination of FrontPage and England would therefore not make the present invention obvious as stated by the Examiner.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 3-6 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the aforementioned grounds should be withdrawn.

B. Rejection of claims 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Microsoft Frontpage 98" copyright 1997 by Sams.net Publishing, pages 359-381, in view of England, U.S. 6,144,991 filed 02/1998 and Courter et al., "Mastering Microsoft Office 2000 Professional Edition", ISBN: 0782123139, Pub. Date: February 1999, Pages 105-145; 937-981; and 1031-1056.

Claim 15 is an independent claim and claim 16 depends on claim 15.

In formulating this instant rejection, the Examiner relied on the FrontPage reference to teach the automatic maintenance of length-to-width ratios of grids (page 9, lines 18-22 and page 12, lines 2-4 of the office action). As presented in Argument Section A, the Examiner's reading is incorrect and FrontPage fails to teach the automatic maintenance of length-to-width ratios of all the grids as taught by the claims (such as claims 15 and 16) of the present invention. England is relied upon by the Examiner to solely teach "the step of providing different frame layouts and grid dimensions" (Page 11, lines 4-5 and page 12, line 7 of the office action). Courter is relied upon by the Examiner to solely teach "the steps of: - selecting a first format for text information from at least two format" and "displaying a screen having said textual information corresponding to said selected format". The combination of FrontPage and England, in view of Courter, would therefore not make the present invention obvious as stated by the Examiner.

Therefore, rejection of claims 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the aforementioned grounds should be withdrawn.

C. The Examiner rejected Claims 18, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Frontpage 98 in view of England as applied to claims 1, 6 and 11, and further in view of Hargove, U.S. 5,371,847, patented 1994.

In formulating this instant rejection, the Examiner relied on FrontPage to teach the automatic maintenance of length-to-width ratios of grids (Page 12, lines 18-19 of the office action). As presented in Argument Section **A**, the Examiner's reading is incorrect and FrontPage fails to teach the automatic maintenance of length-to-width ratio of all the frames as claimed in the present application. England is relied upon by the Examiner to solely teach the step of providing different frame layouts and grid dimensions (page 12, lines 18-19 of the office action). Hargove is relied by the Examiner to add essentially the teaching of the provision of a template at the level of the operating system (page 13, lines 8-9 of the office action) Therefore, FrontPage, in view of England, and further in view of Hargove, would not make the present invention obvious as stated by the Examiner.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 18, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the aforementioned grounds should be withdrawn.

D. The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11-13, 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter et al., "Mastering Microsoft Office 2000 Professional Edition", ISBN: 0782123139, Pub. Date: February 1999, Pages 105-145; 937-981; and 1031-1056.

In formulating the instant rejection, the Examiner explains her reading of Courter's teaching by reciting "Courter, page 135, last paragraph – page 136, user defines

desired length-to-width ratio of grids in the table and this ratio is automatically maintained during splitting (subdividing) a selected cell" (Page 15, lines 9-11 and Page 16, lines 7-10 of the office action) and "Courter teaches creating a desired length-to-width ratio of grids in a table" (page 20, lines 18-19 of the office action). This reading is groundless and erroneous.

First, attention is called to the reference to the phrase "length-to-width ratio" claimed to be present in Courter by the Examiner. The automatic maintenance of length-to-width ratio of all the grids is the gist of the present invention. A careful reading of the cited prior art would reveal that the phrase "length-to-width ratio" or a word/phrase suggesting the same or similar is entirely absent. Also absent from Courter is any teaching or suggestion that the length-to-width ratio, or a similar concept, of a grid can be defined or maintained when the grid is subjected to one or more of the aforementioned operations (repositioning, resizing, reshaping, reorienting, and subdividing).

Second, the Examiner wrongfully claimed that Courter teaches that the length-to-width ratio is "automatically maintained during splitting (subdividing) a selected cell". A quotation from the office action would reveal how the Examiner reached this erroneous conclusion. Page 20, lines 19-21 of the office action recites "Courter teaches splitting (subdividing) a selected cell in the table (Courter, page 134, lines 10-21 and fig. 6.20) resulting a horizontal or vertical will be displayed in the selected cell, while said grids **(grids before splitting)** of said table do not change" (bold type is ours). When a selected cell, which is conveniently referred to as a parent cell for the purpose of discussion, is split into two or more cells, of course the parent cell (as a composite of the two daughter cells) would maintain its length-to-width ratio, since no change has been made to either

its length or its width. However, the two or more newly created daughter cells do not and cannot possess the same length-to-width ratio of the parent cell. While the length (or width) of each of the daughter cells would be the same as that of the parent cell, the width (or length) of each of the daughter cells is only a fraction of that of the parent cell. Therefore, Courter does not teach or allow the maintenance of a uniform length-to-width ratio for **all** the cells in the table. An experiment conducted using Microsoft Office is provided as attachment C to clearly demonstrate this point. In contrast, the present invention teaches "only grids of the desired 2x1 unit length-to-width ratio of dimensions are used to form all display components filling the entire display area of said template data structure" (all of the independent claims, i.e., claims 1, 6, 11 and 15).

As stated by the applicant, Courter as cited by the Examiner, does not teach the automatic maintenance of length-to-width ratio of frames as claimed by the present application.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11-13, 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the aforementioned grounds should be withdrawn.

E.   The Examiner rejected claims 18, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter as applied to claims 1, 6 and 11, and further in view of Hargove, U.S. 5,371,847, patented 1994.

In formulating this instant rejection, the Examiner relied on Courter to teach the automatic maintenance of length-to-width ratios of all of the grids. Hargove is used as a reference to provide the teaching that the template is provided at the level of operating system.

As presented in Argument Section **D**, the Examiner's reading of Courter is incorrect and Courter fails to teach the automatic maintenance of length-to-width ratios of all of the grids as claimed by the present invention. Therefore, the combination of Courter and Hargove, would not make the present invention obvious as stated by the Examiner.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 18, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the aforementioned grounds should be withdrawn.

Claim Appendix (37 C.F.R. 41.37 (c) (1)(viii))

A clean copy of the claims is provided as Claim Appendix.

Evidence Appendix (37 C.F.R. 41.37 (c) (1)(ix))

No evidence pursuant to §§1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 of title 37 or evidence entered by the Examiner and relied upon by the appellant is present.

Related Proceedings Appendix (37 C.F.R. 41.37 (c) (1)(x))

The Related Proceedings Appendix is not applicable since there are no Related Appeals and Interferences other than the prior appeal filed in this application which resulted in a withdrawal of finality and the setting forth of new grounds of rejection (see Brief filed 8/6/03 and office action dated 12/3/03).

Response to the Objection of Claim 1

With regret, the applicant admits the typographical error in claim 1, which led to the objection of claim 1 due to informality, i.e., the omission of a comma. The clean copy of claims submitted to the Examiner in the latest amendment filed on May 23, 2005

correctly recites "devices, said operation on said at least one of the grids being at least one action". However, the comma between "devices" and "said operation" was unfortunately omitted by mistake in the marked-up copy in the same amendment.

The applicant is aware that it is the applicant's responsibility to correct this error. However, since it is a trivial error, the applicant respectfully requests the insertion of a comma at the aforementioned position through an Examiner's amendment by the Examiner, in order to avoid unnecessary confusion that might arise from the filing of a separate amendment to the same effect.
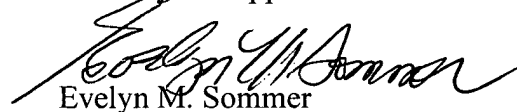
Summary

The cited references when taken alone or in combination does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. It is thus respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 8-16, 18, 20 and 22 be reversed and the objection to claim 1 due to informality be removed.

Waiver of Oral Hearing

Applicant will rely on their Brief on Appeal in this case and waive their right to present oral arguments at a hearing.

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Respectfully Submitted

Attorney for Appellant
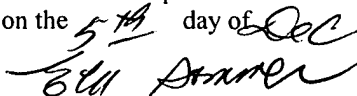
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Certificate of Mailing: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the ___ day of ___ , 2005.

Claim 1

A template data structure for computerized generation of a display of information on computer display devices, said template defining a display area with a dimensional configuration of a height of approximately a first whole number of dimensional units and a width of approximately a second whole number of dimensional units, said template data structure comprising: a plurality of grids combined and arranged together to fill the entire display area of said template, each of said grids being dimensioned to have approximately a two dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration, wherein only grids of the desired 2x1 unit length-to-width ratio of dimensions are used to form all display components filling the entire display area of said template data structure, such that the grids forming all display components can be readily proportioned by the 2x1 dimensional unit ratio in the template data structure to fit together in whole numbers of dimensional units to fill the entire display area of the template data structure and the proportioning of said grids is automatically maintained during operation on at least one of the grids of the template data structure to generate a resulting display on computer display devices said operation on said at least one of the grids being at least one action selected from the group consisting of repositioning, resizing, reshaping, reorienting, and subdividing.

Claim 2   (cancelled)

Claim 3

The template data structure of claim 1, wherein at least one of said grids is further subdivided into two sub-grids each having an approximately one dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration.

Claim 4

The template data structure of claim 1, wherein said template data structure is provided on a Web authoring program for generating pages for display with a browser program, said grids comprising frames in which information may be entered, through said authoring program and displayed via said browser program.

Claim 5

The template data structure of claim 1, wherein said template data structure is provided within a software program, said grids comprising frames in which information may be entered to and displayed via said software program.

Claim 6

A system using a template data structure for computerized generation of a display of information on a computer display device, said template data structure defining a display area with a dimensional configuration of a height of approximately a first whole number of dimensional units and a width of approximately a second whole number of dimensional units and being subdivided into a plurality of grids combined and arranged together to fill the entire display area of said template, wherein each of said grids has an approximately two dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration, and wherein only grids of the desired 2x1 unit length-to-width ratio of dimensions are used to form all display components filling the entire display area of said template data structure, such that the grids forming all display components can be readily proportioned by the 2x1 dimensional unit ratio in the template data structure to fit together in whole numbers of dimensional units to fill the entire display area of the template data structure wherein the desired 2x1 dimensional unit length-to-width ratio of said grids is automatically

maintained during operation on at least one of the grids of the template data structure to generate a resulting display on computer display device, said operation on said at least one of the grids being at least one action selected from the group consisting of repositioning, resizing, reshaping, reorienting, and subdividing.

Claim 7   (cancelled)

Claim 8

The template data structure system of claim 6, wherein at least one of said grids is further subdivided into two sub-grids each having an approximately one dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration.

Claim 9

The template data structure system of claim 6, wherein said system using said template data structure is provided in a Web authoring program for generating pages for display with a browser program, said grids comprising frames in which information may be entered, through said authoring program and displayed via said browser program.

Claim 10

The template data structure system of claim 6, wherein said system using said template data structure is provided within a software program, said grids comprising frames in which information may be entered to and displayed via said software program.

Claim 11

A method of arranging information, including text and graphic images, in a computerized display employing a template data structure having a display area with a dimensional configuration of a height of approximately a first whole number of dimensional units and a width of approximately a second whole number of dimensional

units, said method comprising the step of forming said template data structure subdivided into a plurality of grids combined and arranged together to fill the entire display area of said template, wherein each of said grids has an approximate two-by-one dimensiooal unit configuration, wherein only grids of the desired 2x1 unit length-to-width ratio of dimensions are used to form all display components filling the entire display area of said template data structure, such that the grids forming all display components can be readily proportioned by the 2x1 dimensional unit ratio in the template data structure to fit together in whole numbers of dimensional units to fill the entire display area of the template data structure, and wherein the desired 2x1 dimensional unit length-to-width ratio of said grids is automatically maintained during operation on at least one of the grids of the template data structure to generate a resulting display on computer display device, said operation on said at least one of the grids being at least one action selected from the group consisting of repositioning, resizing, reshaping, reorienting, and subdividing.

Claim 12

The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of providing a plurality of template data structures, each said template data structure having a different arrangement of grids of the desired 2x1 unit length-to-width ratio of dimensions that are used to form all display components filling the entire display area of said template data structure.

Claim 13

The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of entering information into each of said grids such that said template data structure is used to display different information in said grids.

Claim 14

The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of employing said template data structure in a Web authoring program for generating pages for display with a browser program in which information may be entered through said authoring program and displayed via said browser program.

Claim 15

A method for employing a template data structure for generating a computerized screen display of a given display area for displaying text and other information on a computer display device, said text information having at least two formats, at least one of said formats having a horizontal direction orientation and at least one of said formats having a vertical direction orientation, said method comprising:

creating a first screen display by dividing the area of the display defined by a first template data structure into a first plurality of grids which are combined and arranged together to fill the entire area of the display, each of said plurality of grids being dimensioned to have approximately a two dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration, wherein only grids of the desired 2x1 unit length-to-width ratio of dimensions are used to form all display components filling the entire display area of said template data structure, wherein the desired 2x1 dimensional unit length-to-width ratio of said grids is automatically maintained during operation on at least one of the grids of the template data structure to generate a resulting display on computer display device, said operation on said at least one of the grids being at least one action selected from the group consisting of repositioning, resizing, reshaping, reorienting, and subdividing, at least one of said first plurality of grids displaying said text information formatted in said

horizontal direction orientation, said at least one grid having a horizontal orientation corresponding to the orientation of said textual information format;

creating a second screen display by dividing the area of the display defined by a second template data structure into a second plurality of grids which are combined and arranged together to fill the entire area of the display, each of said second plurality of grids being dimensioned to have approximately a two dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration, wherein only grids of the desired 2x1 unit length-to-width ratio of dimensions are used to form all display components filling the entire display area of said template data structure, wherein the desired 2x1 dimensional unit length-to-width ratio of said grids is automatically maintained during operation on at least one of the grids of the template data structure to generate a resulting display on computer display device, said operation on said at least one of the grids being at least one action selected from the group consisting of repositioning, resizing, reshaping, reorienting, and subdividing, each of said grids having a horizontal or vertical orientation, at least one of said second plurality of grids displaying said text information formatted in said vertical direction orientation, said at least one grid having a vertical orientation corresponding to the orientation of said textual information format;

selecting a first format for said text information from said at least two template data structures; and

displaying said screen display having textual information entered in said selected template data structure.

Claim 16

The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of said grids is further subdivided into two sub-grids each having an approximately one dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration.

Claim 17   (cancelled)

Claim 18

The template data structure of claim 1, wherein said template data structure is provided at the level of an operating system of a computer, said grids comprising frames in which computer programs can be displayed.

Claim 19   (cancelled)

Claim 20

The template data structure system of claim 6, wherein said template data structure is provided at the level of an operating system of a computer, said grids comprising frames in which computer programs can be displayed.

Claim 21   (cancelled)

Claim 22

The method of claim 11, wherein said template data structure is provided at the level of an operating system of a computer, said grids comprising frames in which computer programs can be displayed.

Attachment A

The following is an illustration of an experiment conducted using Microsoft FrontPage 2002. The appellant was not able to locate a copy of FrontPage 97 since it is rather dated.

Step 1. Construction of the four frames using Percent settings. A page containing four frames, A, B, C, D was generated (Figure A, left). All of the frames A, B, C, D have a length-to-width ratio of 2:1. The frame sizes were set so that height of all of the frames are 50% of the height of the browser window and width of all of the frames are 50% of the width of the browser window.

Step 2. Splitting of frame A into two rows (Figure A, right).

It is apparent from the experiment that the newly generated frames A1, A2 do not possess a length-to-width ratio of 2:1. Rather, A1 and A2 have a length-to-width ratio of 4:1.

The conclusion is that FrontPage fails to teach the automatic maintenance of the length-to-width ratios of **all** of the frames/grids in the display area when a frame is subdivided, which is claimed by the present invention.
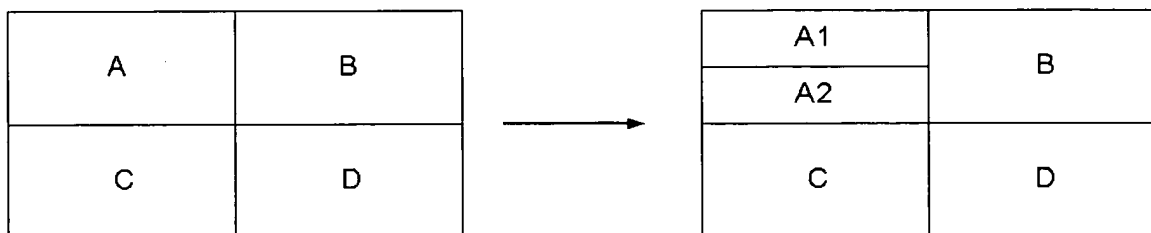
A	B
C	D

→

A1	B
A2	
C	D

Figure A. The splitting of a frame in FrontPage without maintaining the length-to-width ratio for all of the frames.

Attachment B

The following is an illustration of an experiment conducted using Microsoft FrontPage 2002. The appellant was not able to locate a copy of FrontPage 97 since it is rather dated.

Step 1. Construction of the four frames using Percent settings. A page, having a length-to-width ratio of 2:1 and containing four frames, A, B, C, D was generated (Fig. B, left). All of the frames A, B, C, D have a length-to-width ratio of 2:1. The frame sizes were set so that height of all of the frames are 50% of the height of the browser window and width of all of the frames are 50% of the width of the browser window.

Step 2. Reshape the page by reducing the width of the page so that it now has a length-to-width ratio of 4:1 (Fig B, right).

Since the width of the frame is a set percentage of the width of the page and the length of the frame is a set percentage of the length of the page, the length-to-width ratio of the frames will follow the change of that of the page and cannot be maintained a constant.

The conclusion is that FrontPage fails to teach the automatic maintenance of the length-to-width ratios of all of the frames/grids in the display area when the page containing the frames is reshaped.
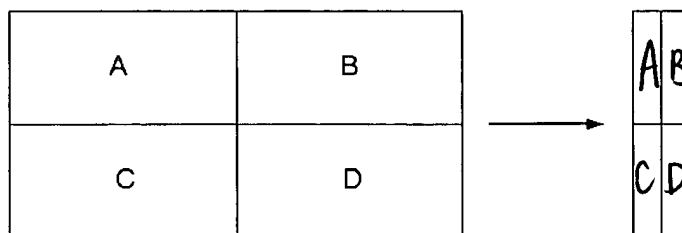

Fig. B. The reshape of a page leads to the change in length-to-width ratio of frames contained in the page in FrontPage.

Attachment C

The following is an illustration of an experiment conducted using Microsoft Office 2000.

Step 1. Construction of a table comprising 4 cells (A, B, C, D), each cell with a length-to-width ratio of 2:1. See Fig. C1.

Step 2. Splitting of the cell A using the Split Cell command (split A into 3 columns and 1 row), dividing cell A to three new cells E, F and G. See Fig. C2.

It is apparent from the experiment that the three newly created cells E, F and G do not possess the same length-to-width ratio of cell A, B, C or D, which is 2:1. Rather, cells E, F and G possess a length-to-width ratio of 1:0.667.

The conclusion is that Microsoft Office fails to teach the automatic maintenance of the length-to-width ratios of **all** of the cells in a table when a cell is subdivided, which is claimed by the present invention.

A	B
C	D

Fig. C1. A table of 4 cells, each cell with a length-to-width ratio of 2:1.

E	F	G	B
C			D

Fig. C2. A table of Fig. B1, Cell A further divided into three cells E, F and G by two vertical lines.